

150 years



1866-2016

MARKtime

St. Mark's Church, Gillingham
with St. Mary's Island Church

Living for Jesus; Loving Gillingham;
Learning Together

Mission Focus: All Mission
Partners

St. Mark's Event:
All Christmas Services

15th December 2019

SUNDAY 15th December:



3rd Sunday of Advent

10.30am Holy
Communion

Theme: Watching – Luke
2:8-20

3.00pm: **Empty Chair
Service** – For those who
have lost loved ones

6.30pm: **NO EVENING SERVICE**

Other Services:

11.00am: **Morning Service**, St Mary's Island

7.00pm: **Summit**, Hillsong Christmas Carols

Prayer Ministry: If you would like to pray or
share concerns with someone, prayer teams are
available in the small chapel at the front of
church.

**Monday–Friday during term time, St. Mark's
Preschool**, Vicarage Hall – children need to be
registered first. Open Mon, Tues, Thurs, 9.15am-
3.15pm Weds & Fri 9.15am-12.15pm.

WHAT'S ON DURING THIS WEEK:

Mon 16th Dec: Office closed from 12.30pm

Tues 17th Dec: 9.00am-noon: Church is open
– Please speak to Dammy for details.

Weds 18th Dec: 9.00am Holy Communion in
church

9.45am: **Ladies Group**, Old Vicarage

Thurs 19th Dec: 1.00pm-3.00pm: **Foodbank**, in
Church

Sat 21st Dec: 7.00am-8.00am: **Standing in the
Gap** – praying for families, youth & children's
ministries, Old Vicarage

10.00am-noon: **Foodbank**, in church

5.00pm **Beyond the Star** – Our huge annual
Christmas festival! – in St. Mark's Church

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Merry Christmas

Katie will be away from Weds 18th Dec and
return on Mon 6th Jan. Please contact her
before this for anything you may need.

Tues 24th Dec: 11.00pm: **Christmas Eve
Midnight Service**, St Mary's Island

The church
office will
close from
Friday 20th
Dec and re-
open on Fri 3rd
Jan.

Christmas Services at St. Mark's Church

Weds 25th Dec: 10.30am **Christmas Day** – All
Age Holy Communion Service

Tues 31st Dec: 11.00pm **Watchnight
Service** – Glorifying the LORD as we see
in the New Year!



Weds 1st Jan 2020: 10.30am: **Holy
Communion** – Please note the change of time,
thank you.

Sun 5th Jan 2020: 10.30am: **All Age Service** –
Theme: New Year, St. Mark's Church

Mon 6th Jan 2020: 9.15am **St. Mark's
Preschool** restarts after Christmas break,
Vicarage Hall

Weds 8th Jan 2020: 1.15pm: **Parent &
Toddlers** restarts after Christmas Break,
Vicarage Hall

Fri 10th Jan 2020: 6.15pm-7.30pm: **Kidz Klub**
restarts after the Christmas Break, Old Vicarage

Sun 12th Jan 2020: **All Youth & Childrens
groups** restart after the Christmas break

SUNDAY 22nd December:

4th Sunday of Advent

10.30am: **Traditional Carol
Service** – A chance to sing
some seasonal hymns



5.30pm: **Church in the Pub** – King George V,
Brompton

Other Services:

11.00am: **Family Service** – Lessons and
Carols, St Mary's Island

FAMILY NEWS

**Christmas Card Notice Board in
aid of Tearfund is now open for
service! Please place your card on
the board and the donation in an
envelope labled Tearfund and
place this in the collection, thank you.**



We raised £722.63 for the **tearfund**
October Harvest, thank you to all those who
donated.

Thank you to all those who filled
shoeboxes. It was a short deadline but we
received 22 plus an extra 13 thanks to a
donation from our mission link task group!

Please help Foodbank by donating food items as
demand is outstripping supply! Find the items



needed either on the Foodbank website or Twitter account. There will be a box at the back of the church with a sign saying 'Foodbank Collection Point'. Thank you.

POINTS FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER



"Blessed are those who listen to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my door way. For those who find me find life and receive favour from the LORD." Proverbs 8:34-35 (NIV UK)

LORD thank you that when we choose to go Your way, listen to Your Holy wisdom and act on it we find our chains broken and our spirits free from the fear, anxiety and confusion of this world. Please help us to remember that Your grace is sufficient for our needs (2 Corinthians 12:9), Your joy makes our hearts sing and Your peace keeps our minds at rest in Your never failing love. Amen.

Continue to pray for all our church leaders especially remembering Saju's sabbatical, Amanda, Simon, Chris and our Churchwardens Helen & Raymond... **Ask the LORD** to grant wisdom, encouragement and His Godly discernment... "*May Your priests be clothed with righteousness, may Your faithful people sing with joy.*" (Psalm 132:9)

Pray for our **Mission Partner, Katy Barnwell...** **Ask the LORD** to protect her & her teams in their travels and to continue to encourage, equip and give His holy wisdom in the various translations of His Holy Word, the Bible... **Praise** that more and more communities has a written text of the Bible in their own languages, so that they can learn the LORD's wisdom and meet with Him day-to-day in their readings.

Pray for **Gay Gower** whose results from MRI Scans are "worrying" She praises the LORD in these difficulties and can see His planning, timing

and presence in her life... **Praise** that the GP who prays with patients at the Bethesda Medical Centre Doctors Surgery in Margate has been allowed to continue this with their written consent.

Praise for the **The Music Man Project CHRISTMAS CONCERT** that happened on Dec 11th and for all the answers to prayer.

Pray for all the Christmas Services taking place in St. Mark's, St. Mary's Island and in the wider churches of the Medway Towns... **Ask the LORD** to rescue His people from their chains, the wisdom to seek Him and His salvation, so that they come to know, "*How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*" (Psalm 119:103) and live!

Pray for everyone at the 'Empty Chair Service' happening later today @ 3pm and grant them His peace.

Pray for **Vera Adams** as her sight deteriorates. Ask the LORD to bring His healing love and power to arrest this degeneration and give His wisdom to the specialist who is looking after her care.

Pray for those who were affected by the London Bridge Attack... **Ask the LORD** to bring His healing into the grief, shock and horror of everyone involved including the attacker's family.

Pray for **Derick Thom** who recently had hip replacement surgery... for **Michael Stacey**... for **Trish Martin**... for **Paul Smith** and **Keith Sheepwash**... and for anyone you know who needs the LORD at this time for whatever reason.

Bring to the LORD any situation whether in our church family, locally, nationally or internationally that you care about... **Praise** "*Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan, I will now arise*", says the LORD. "*I will protect them from those who malign them.*" (Psalm 12:5)

Please pray for: All Mission Partners; All Christmas Services

Bible readings for December 2019

Day	Psalm	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading
Mon 16 th	40	Isaiah 38.1-8, 21-22	Matthew 16.13-end
Tues 17 th	70	Isaiah 38.9-20	Matthew 17.1-13
Weds 18 th	75	Isaiah 39	Matthew 17.14-21
Thurs 19 th	146	Zephaniah 1.1-2.3	Matthew 17.22-end
Fri 20 th	46	Zephaniah 3.1-13	Matthew 18.1-20
Sat 21 st	121	Zephaniah 3.14-end	Matthew 18.21-end

Except for the first Sunday of the month **during term time**, groups for children and young teenagers meet at the Old Vicarage, each Sunday morning. All our youth & children's workers are DBS checked for your child's protection and safety. **If you have young children** please feel free to take your children to the Creche area through the second door on the left, at the front of church (ask if you can't see it). Children are important to us at St. Mark's and we want them to be happy. Please feel free to let them play quietly in the Creche; **we just ask that you stay with them and leave the area tidy!**

New Church Office Hours are:
Mon & Thurs 10.00am-3.00pm, Tues & Weds 10.00am-2.00pm, Fri 9.15am-1.15pm (by appointment only)